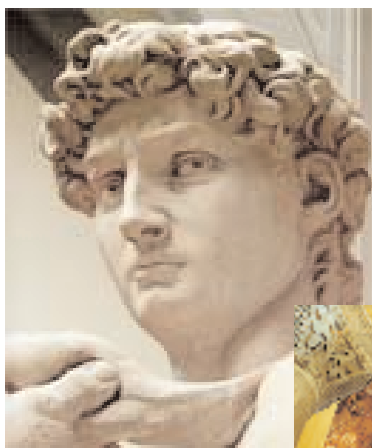




FOURTH NJ CONGRESS OF ITALIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

New Jersey Italians in the Arts



Saturday, October 27, 2007
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Organized By:
The New Jersey Italian and Italian
American Heritage Commission

Sponsored By:
The New Jersey Italian American
Heritage Foundation

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

"New Jersey Italians in the Arts"

8:30am – 9:00am. Registration and Continental Breakfast
(Main Lounge)

9:00am – 9:15am. Welcome and Greetings

Emcee: **Janine Strafaci**
(Anchor: News 12 New Jersey)

Cav. Richard Bilotti, Chairman
NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission

Cav. N. Larry Paragano, Chairman Emeritus
NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission

9:15am – 10:00am. **Anthony Visco**
Ecclesiastical Painter Sculptor
"The Italian American Art of Devotion"

10:00am – 10:15am. Break

10:15am – 11:00am. **Maria Mazziotti Gillan**
Founder and Executive Director
Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College
***"Reclaiming our Heritage:
An Italian American Writer Speaks"***

11:00am to 12:00pm. **Maestro Fernando Raucci**
Music Director and Conductor
Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra (GPYO)
"A Journey through the History of Neapolitan Songs"

12:00pm to 1:00pm . . . Luncheon (Main Lounge)

Thank you for Joining Us!

Anthony Visco

Ecclesiastical Painter Sculptor

"The Italian American Art of Devotion"

Anthony Visco is a professional artist who maintains his studio in center city Philadelphia, where he does commissioned works, gallery exhibitions, and private studio works. Upon graduation from the Philadelphia College of Art he was the recipient of the Fulbright-Hayes Grant to travel and study in Italy, where he attended studios at the Accademia delle Belle Arti in Florence. In 1975, he was awarded the Elizabeth T. Greensields Grant for figurative sculpture. He is a member of Classical America and has received the coveted Arthur Ross award twice for sculpture in an architectural setting.



His commissions include St. Thomas of Villanova, Father of the Poor, a life sized group of bronze figures for Villanova Province, and a bronze statue of St. Norbert for the Norbertine Community at Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA. His relief panels depicting the Stations of the Cross can be seen at St. Joseph's National Shrine in Old Philadelphia, as well as his large relief sculpture entitled, "Religious Freedom," done for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the same church. At the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Mr. Visco has sculpted three bronze panels depicting "Baptism, Eucharist and The Word," designed for the reredose in the Catherine Pew Memorial Chapel there. In 1993-4, Anthony was commissioned to do the sculpture for the sanctuary at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Berlin, NJ and in '96-'97 completed two bronze commissions for Holy Family College Chapel. In 1999 he began his work for the National Shrine of St. Rita in Philadelphia where his reliefs, statues and murals are an ongoing commission. His current commissions include a porcelain tile Rosary Walk and mural works for the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Mr. Visco is the founder and director of The Atelier for the Sacred Arts, where he does commission works and offers professional services as devotional art consultant. Along with his lectures to both artist groups and religious communities, Mr. Visco offered his expertise as a guest critic to the New York Academy of Art, and as a professor at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts where he chaired the Sculpture Department from 1986 to 1992.

Maria Mazziotti Gillan

Founder and Executive Director
Poetry Center at Passaic County
Community College



“Reclaiming Our Heritage: An Italian American Writer Speaks”

Maria Mazziotti Gillan is the Founder and Executive Director of the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, NJ. She is also the Director of the Creative Writing Program and a Professor of Poetry at Binghamton University-State University of New York. Ms. Mazziotti Gillan has published eight books of poetry, including *The Weather of Old Seasons* (Cross-Cultural Communications), and *Where I Come From, Things My Mother Told Me*, and *Italian Women in Black Dresses* (Guernica Editions). She is co-editor with her daughter Jennifer of four anthologies: *Unsettling America*, *Identity Lessons*, and *Growing Up Ethnic in America* (Penguin/Putnam) and *Italian American Writers on New Jersey* (Rutgers). She is the editor of the Paterson Literary Review. Her work has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *New Letters*, *The New York Times*, *Poetry Ireland*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and other journals.

Maria has been nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Award for *All That Lies Between Us* and she has won the May Sarton Award, the Fearing Houghton Award, New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowships in Poetry, and the American Literary Translators Association Award through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her newest books are *All That Lies Between Us* (Guernica Editions, 2007) and *Talismans/Talismi*, translated by Elisabetta Marino of the University of Rome (Ibiskos, 2006). The book was awarded the Premio Belmore from Italy.

Maria won the Aniello Lauri award from *Voices in Italian Americana*, the First Annual John Fante and Pietro di Donato Award from the Sons of Italy in America. Her books were also chosen for the New York Public Library's Booklist, Editor's Choice from *The Library Journal*, Outstanding Book for the College-bound and Lifelong Learner from the American Library Association, and the National Public Radio's "Poet and the Poem" award for literary excellence. Her book, *Italian American Writers on New Jersey*, was chosen for an Author Award by the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance.

In 2005, a scholarly book on her work, *Maria Mazziotti Gillan: Essays on Her Work*, edited by Sean Thomas Dougherty, was published by Guernica Editions. Her papers have been acquired by Binghamton University--The State University of New York [www.pccc.edu/poetry and on english.binghamton.edu (click on Faculty)].

Maestro Fernando Raucci

Music Director and Conductor
Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra

"A Journey Through the History of Neapolitan Songs"



Maestro Fernando Raucci has conducted professionally in the USA for the past five years. He brings a vitality born of talent, European training and culture to all his musical ensembles. Mr. Raucci is concurrently Music Director of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra. He was previously Music Director of Opera International, Princeton; Principal Guest Conductor, Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra; Permanent Conductor, Nicola Amati Chamber Orchestra; Artistic Director, Armonie Notturme, Isernia, Italy; and Assistant to Mo. Maurizio Barbacini, Opera Company of Philadelphia for Don Carlo. He has conducted orchestras in Poland, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, and Bulgaria. Until recently, he spent three successful years as Assistant of the American Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Center, NYC, with Mo. Leon Botstein. In the summer of 2005, Raucci was an invited participant at the renowned Festival of Spoleto, Italy.

Maestro Raucci's educational background includes studies beginning in Italy with conservatory training emphasizing piano performance and contrapoint and fugue. He began to study conducting at age 17, attending conservatories in Italy and throughout Europe. He has completed a Master's degree in Orchestra Conducting at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, receiving the Recognition of Excellence Award in Orchestral Conducting. Mo. Harold Farbermann comments, "Raucci instinctively understands line, color and pacing, and his performances are always interesting and satisfying. He has a bright future." In addition to Raucci's musical activities in his adopted USA homeland, he has been committed to educating others about Italy and its music cultural heritage. He has brought traditional Italian favorites to the American stage, and introduced audiences to unique Italian traditions. In 2003, he was awarded the prestigious Accademico, an annual international prize from the European Academy for Economical Cultural Relations (AEREC) for advancing the cause of cultural exchange between nations. In 2004, he was inducted into the Italian American National Hall of Fame in Atlantic City, NJ. New Jersey Governor James McGreevey commended Raucci, in 2002, for making the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra one of the best cultural organizations in New Jersey. Additionally he has earned him high praise from many other sources, as well. In the words of Mo. Zubin Mehta, "Fernando Raucci is a promising young conductor, intelligent, serious with innate musicality. He is on his way to a successful career." For more information, please see www.gpyo.org.

Janine Strafaci

Main evening news anchor for
News 12 New Jersey



Janine Strafaci has been with News 12 New Jersey for more than 10 years. Ms. Strafaci started as a news reporter and has been at the anchor desk for 9 years now. Along with her anchor duties, she does a daily health report for News 12 NJ, as well as hosts a weekend health program called "12 To Your Health."

Prior to News 12 NJ, Janine anchored and reported for Adelphia Channel 8 and WOBN-FM. Janine is a graduate of Boston University—where she earned two degrees in Journalism and French Language and Literature. Janine's anchoring and reporting have garnered a number of industry awards. Those awards include: 2 Emmy awards, 9 Emmy nominations, an Edward R. Murrow award, 7 national Telly awards from the cable industry, and numerous Associated Press, Society of Professional Journalists and Garden State Journalist awards. Janine was born and raised in New Jersey. Her ties to our state and her work in the community have brought her many honors, including: The Jaycees Outstanding Citizen of the Year, the New Jersey Education Association Woman of Accomplishment and UNICO's Outstanding Italian-American.

Special thanks for their support in presenting the Fourth Congress of Italian American Organizations:

Rutgers Student Center and Mail and Document Services
Gerlanda's - Food Services

**Star-Lo Electric, Inc.
32 South Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981**



Vice Consulate of Italy in New Jersey

About the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission *And the Theme of Today's Congress...*

The Commission was created in 2002 by an act of legislation to "raise public awareness of the rich and varied culture, positive achievements and traditions of Italy, the Italian people, and Italian Americans as these have contributed to American, western and world civilization." To do so, the Commission seeks to create and support programs which recognize, honor and promote the countless achievements and contributions of Italians and Italian Americans throughout history. These programs include educational programs, forums, seminars, publications and exchanges for public and private schools, colleges and universities, as well as private and public sector audiences throughout the state.

Today's theme, "*New Jersey Italians in the Arts*," offers the community the highest level of cultural achievement in three artistic fields of endeavor—painting/sculpture, poetry, and music. Our most sincere thanks to our Keynote Presenters, Anthony Visco, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, and Maestro Fernando Raucci!

The New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation

The Foundation provides funding which supports the work of the Commission. The Foundation, a public 501c(3), is governed by a Board of Trustees which develops and evaluates independent and collaborative programs and projects to inform and educate the public regarding Italian heritage.

Donations to the Foundation can be sent to:
The New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation
18 Bishop Place, Third Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Thanks for your support.

THE COMMISSION

Officers of the Commission

Cav. Richard Bilotti
Chairman

Cav. N. Larry Paragano
Chairman Emeritus

Tina Segali
Vice Chair

Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D.
Vice Chair

Joseph A. Alessi, Esq.
Secretary

Robert C. Rafano, Esq.
Treasurer

Ex Officio Members

Lucille E. Davy
NJ Commissioner of Education

Edward J. Yaw
NJ Presidents' Council

Advisors to the Commission

Robert Barbera
Frank Campione, Esq.
William Connell, Ph.D.
Rinaldo M. D'Argenio, Esq.
Cav. Paul DiGaetano
Cav. Robert Freda, Ph.D.
Michael Genevrino
Paul J. Liroy, Ph.D.
Eileen L. Poiani, Ph.D.
Robert Prunetti
Mary Ann Puccio

Commissioners

Joseph A. Alessi, Esq.
Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D.
Cav. Richard Bilotti
Nancy Camevale, Ph.D.
Cav. Frank Gargione
Peter J. Cocozziello
Carmelo Corallo
Salvatore A. Davino
Barbara Lazzaro
Mario A. Marano
Angelo Morresi, Esq.
Cav. N. Larry Paragano
Robert C. Rafano, Esq.
Tina Segali
Joseph Seneca, Ph.D.
Domenico Tancredi
Cav. Marisa Trubiano, Ph.D.
Catherine G. Vignale
Cav. Uff. Laura Sanguinetti
White, Ph.D.

Professional Staff

Mary Ann Re, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Nancy Jemas
Program Manager

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Cav. Frank Gargione
Co-Chair

Eileen L. Poiani, Ph.D.
Co-Chair

John Marino
NIAF Representative

Robert Barbera
Cav. Joseph Coccia
Ralph Contini
Carmelo Corallo
Anthony DiMeo III
Dr. Peter DeSciscio
Michael Genevrino
Dolores Del Deo Kirk

Barbara Lazzaro
Paul Licitra
Mary Ann Puccio
Mariuccia Romano
Peter Tarquinio
Raymond Yannuzzi, Ph.D.
Rosa Zagari-Marinzoli, Ph.D.